



California Department of Veterans Affairs

NEWS FOR VETERANS

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FROM THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TOM JOHNSON

The following message was issued by Secretary Tom Johnson to all nurses working in CDVA on the occasion of this year's Nurses Week observation.

"Nursing is the pivotal health care profession, highly valued for its specialized knowledge, skill and caring in improving the health status of the public and ensuring safe, effective, quality care". This statement, embodied in the Vision for Nursing established in 2001 by a number of professional nursing organizations is being played out daily in our State Veterans Homes. I remember reading the words of General Eisenhower and General McArthur as inscribed on the new WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C., about both the skill and courage needed by the troops as they went into battle.

In the nursing profession it is a similar combination only slightly altered to reflect skill and caring. At its' core and at the heart of the profession is certainly caring and compassion. But the other component, in the arena of experience and encompassing a specific body of knowledge, is the skill required to compliment the caring. Each year that body of knowledge changes with new discoveries in the healing arts professions and the skills required may also change with new technology. The caring and compassion, however, remain constant.

Upon this week of May 6th through May 12th, National Nursing recognition week, let me add another statement to those that have already been made to say a special thank you to all of those engaged in the nursing profession and to whom our veterans owe a daily debt of gratitude. You are greatly appreciated by those you serve and by those who serve with you, in various capacities including those here at CDVA headquarters.

Best wishes to all of our nursing staff,
Tom Johnson, Secretary

NEWS FROM THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

The Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council, is sponsoring a symposium which will focus on dealing with stress and how it affects our lives and our health on Saturday and Sunday, May 14-15, 2005 at the Quality Inn, 4278 West Ashlan Avenue, Fresno, Ca. 93722. Reservations can be made by calling the Quality Inn at 559 275 2727. Make sure to mention that you are attending the Vietnam Veterans of America Symposium so you will get the special \$64 per night rate.

Goals And Objectives For The Symposium

1. To learn the basic dynamics of stress and its effects on our lives and our health.
2. To learn the dynamics of traumatic stress and multiple stresses.
3. To learn about the effects that stress has on our families and how that stress also affects their lives and health.
4. To provide a model of intervention to include grass roots, interpersonal, and professional treatment at the community level.
5. Panel discussion on the effects of how stress is handled and how it affects family, friends, work, and personal happiness.

Also on the agenda will be a seminar on Advocacy training.

All newly returning service members, veterans, their families and friends, and others are invited to attend.

For more information contact: Ken Holybee, Vietnam Veterans of America at holybee@aol.com or Dick Southern at southern@lodelink.net.

NEWS FROM BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, BAY AREA CHAPTER

ROLLING THUNDER® XVIII "OPERATION CARRY THE FLAME" ACROSS AMERICA 2005

Please join the Bay Area Blue Star Moms us for the opening ceremony of Rolling Thunder® XVIII "Operation Carry The Flame" Across America 2005. This event is being co hosted by the USS Hornet Museum. Cross-country motorcycle riders who "Carry The Flame" will depart the West Coast at Alameda, CA. Their cross-country journey ends with a candlelight vigil at "The Wall." On Memorial Day, they will merge with over 500,000 riders in Washington, DC to honor and show their support for our veterans, especially those who are POW/MIA. The ceremony on the USS Hornet additionally recognizes the sacrifices of the families of soldiers and veterans, including Gold Star Mothers of America, Blue Star Mothers of America, Gold Star Wives of America and Blue Star Wives of America.

Monday, May 16, 2005

Aircraft Carrier USS Hornet Museum Alameda, CA

6:30 p.m. Reception - Hangar Deck

Hors D'oeuvres – No Host Bar.

7:30 p.m. Ceremonies Begin - Hangar Deck

Guest Speakers include Major General J. Michael Myatt, USMC (Ret.)

Richard Hites, Special Assistant to the Commanding General

Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

Dolores Alford, National Chairperson, National Alliance of POW/MIAs Families

8:30 p.m. Ceremonial "Passing of the Flame" - Flight Deck

King Cavalier II, Chairman, Carry The Flame, Inc.

Traditional Native American Pipe Ceremony

Music by Fletcher Bridge

Kindly RSVP to Berni Fitzsimmons – Director/Event Operations, USS Hornet Museum Phone: (510) 521-8448 x 211, Fax: (510) 749-3699 or e-mail: Berni@hornetevents.com

NEWS FROM THE MONTEREY FILM COMMISSION

The Monterey County Film Commission is planning "A Day of Tribute to Vietnam Veterans and Their Families" to honor Vietnam War Veterans and to present the California premiere of the award-winning documentary, "In The Shadow of The Blade." The healing power of the documentary for veterans and families of America's longest war has been described as "the most important thing to happen for Vietnam Veterans since the dedication of The Wall."

This event will be held Sunday, May 22, 2005 at the Steinbeck Forum in the Monterey Conference Center in Monterey. There will be two screenings, one at 2:00 p.m. and then at 6:00 p.m., with the Presidio of Monterey Joint Services Color Guard opening each showing. A 4:00 p.m. reception will honor Vietnam Veterans and give an opportunity to meet the documentary's producers, Patrick and Cheryl Fries of Arrowhead Film & Video in Austin, Tex.

General admission tickets are \$15 and limited discount tickets for Vietnam Veterans and active-duty military are available through the film commission office for \$8 by calling 831-646-0910. Tickets are available at Bay Books in Monterey and online at www.ticketguys.com.

"In The Shadow of The Blade" follows the 10,000-mile flight across America of a restored UH-1 "Huey" helicopter to hear the untold stories of the soldiers who once relied on it for survival and the families who waited for them to come home. The Huey, with its 48-foot rotor blade, makes a distinctively loud WHOP, WHOP, WHOP sound, often described by veterans as a "the sound of freedom." The Huey became the icon of the Vietnam War, used by all branches of service for troop transport, supply, medical evacuation and combat assault.

For the film, more than 40 landings were made in backyards and farmyards as the helicopter's visits became the catalyst for healing. The film tells the stories of soldiers and citizens who came to pay respects, take a ride, and share special reunions with their wartime icon.

The Library of Congress Veteran Forum noted that the truthfulness and unfiltered stories of combat veterans in the film deliver "a gold standard for accuracy, insuring that the real experience, as opposed to the Hollywood cliché, is documented for posterity."

Portions of the event's proceeds benefit the Monterey County Film Commission and its educational scholarship, and the Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Memorial Scholarship Fund.

For additional information visit the Monterey County Film Commission at www.FilmMonterey.org.

MEMORIAL DAY 2005 EVENTS

The Memorial Day 2005 Events Calendar is now available on the CDVA homepage at www.cdva.ca.gov. Please continue forwarding your organization's Memorial Day 2005 Events to us for inclusion in updates of this listing/calendar. Email your information to newsforveterans@cdva.ca.gov. You may also fax your information to 916.653-2611, attention: Jaime Arteaga.

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